

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 13, 20 and 21 being in independent form. Claims 1-19 were presented in the Amendment After Final Action dated November 30, 2004, and in response to the Advisory Action issued by the Office on January 10, 2005, Applicants hereby request entry of the amendments to Claims 1 and 13.

Claims 20-23 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Applicants note that independent Claims 20 and 21 include the features of original Claims 1 and 13, respectively, and the feature of Claim 8 directed to the ball pusher having a low friction against the tip ball. Applicants submit that nothing has been found in the cited prior art, and nothing has been stated in any of the previous Office Actions, that would teach or suggest the features of independent Claims 20 and 21. Moreover, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 22 and 23 depend from independent Claims 20 and 21, respectively, and are allowable at least for the same reasons as discussed above. Support in the specification for the subject matter of Claims 22 and 23 can be found at least at paragraph 25, lines 7 and 8.

Applicants hereby authorize the Office to charge Jones Day Deposit Account No. 503013 a claims' fee of \$350.00 (\$200.00 for the one additional independent claim over the allotted three and \$150.00 for the additional three claims over the allotted 20), a two-month extension fee of \$450.00, and the RCE fee of \$790.00. No other fee is believed due at this time. However, should any additional fee be required, please charge such fee to Jones Day Account No. 503013.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 326-3694. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 9, 2005


Peter G. Thurlow 47,138
(Reg. No.)

JONES DAY
222 East 41st Street
New York, New York 10017
(212) 326-3694